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CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY GROWS;
SOME AREAS LAGGING

MOSCOW INDUSTRIES NOT UTILIZING FULL CAPACITIES; FACE SHORTAGES --
Vechernyaya Moskva, No 20, 24 Jan 50

During the war, the largest and technically more advanced enterprises of the Moscow City Soviet, which served as a production base for high-speed construction, were turned over to other organizations. "Stroydetal" (Construction Parts) Plant No 5 was at that time included in the system of the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises, Plant No 6 was turned over to Metrostroy, and the Dubininskiy Plant to Mosgazstroy. These plants, which were technically equipped to produce reinforced-concrete construction parts, are now engaged in a type of production for which they were not originally intended and are utilizing only 30 percent of their capacity. Also during the war, two plants (Krasnopresnenskiy No 1 and Pavshinskiy) were rebuilt and converted into machinery plants. The four small reinforced-concrete parts plants, now under the supervision of the City Administration of Construction Materials Industry, are unable to meet the growing demands of the construction industry.

The Kudinovno Ceramics Plant, which formerly produced face bricks and terra cotta, is now producing refractories for ferrous metallurgy. The expansion of the plant for organic dry plaster started before the war, was interrupted, and has not been completed. Production of colored plaster by the "Mosterrazit" Plant has been discontinued. This plant, which has also been excluded from the number of Moscow City Soviet enterprises, covers a large area near the Moskva River. It has its own railroad sidings and a landing dock, which is important for the production of terrazit, making it possible to deliver cement and sand direct to the plant in large quantities at low cost. Production of colored plaster is now being organized in small shops using outdated methods, and the above-mentioned plant, which has all the prerequisites for large-scale production of this product, is not being utilized.

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Moscow limestone is an excellent material for facing buildings. This type of limestone is durable, frost-resistant, and highly decorative. The Myachkovskoye limestone deposit is near the city, in the immediate vicinity of the Moskva River. However, it is not being quarried at present. Limestone for facing could also be used from the Karabcheyevskoye, Protopopovskoye, and Byakovskoye deposits. The Moscow facing materials industry is not adequately prepared for the large-scale development of housing construction.

A serious problem is supplying the construction industry with nonmetallic minerals. Despite rich deposits of gravel and limestone, which sometimes attain a depth of 10 meters and come almost to the surface, there is at present a shortage of rubblestone, gravel, and crushed stone in Moscow. The shortage of crushed stone and gravel hinders production of reinforced-concrete parts for industrial construction. Plants and construction projects have been forced to install their own crushing equipment, and this operation has resulted in a 15-20 percent loss.

Fulfillment of the 1950 construction program will require over 3 million cubic meters of stone materials. Exploitation of quarries is very poorly organized. In most cases, quarrying and loading of stone are not mechanized and there are no crushing and sorting installations.

The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry RSFSR is engaged in the production of basic materials, including lime, bricks, and alabaster, but has failed to develop other branches of this industry, including the production of construction parts which are important for industrial projects. The ministry has failed to give attention to the mining of nonmetallic minerals. There is not even a division or group in this ministry assigned to construction parts and facing materials.

PRODUCTION UP IN BASHKIR ASSR -- Pravda, No 9, 9 Jan 50

Enterprises of the Administration of Construction Materials, Council of Ministers Bashkir ASSR, operated successfully in 1949. The best results were achieved by the Ufa Cement Plant.

Since the first days of 1950, production of construction materials has increased. The cement plant has begun to produce a new type of material. The Ufa brick plants have installed new machines, enabling them to increase their output. New construction materials plants will be opened in 1950 in Sterlitamakskiy, Kuyurgazinskiy, Ufimskiy, Aurgazinskiy, and other rayons.

UKRAINIAN SSR GETS GRANITE-POLISHING FACTORY -- Trud, No 10, 12 Jan 50

Construction of a large mechanized granite-polishing factory has been completed in the vicinity of Kiev. The enterprise is equipped with modern machinery. In 1950, the factory is to produce at least 6,000 square meters of polished granite plates and marble slabs for the construction of tall buildings in Moscow. The factory will use Ukrainian granite and Transcarpathian and Ural marble.

BELORUSSIAN GYPSUM PLANT TOPS 1949 PLAN -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 12, 17 Jan 50

Two years ago Belorussia did not have its own gypsum plant. A gypsum plant was built and began to operate in May 1948. During 1949, the plant

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attained its full productive capacity. The year plan was considerably exceeded and the output was four times as high as in 1948. Production is completely mechanized. In 1950, the plant will begin to manufacture various gypsum construction parts and dry plaster.

'TILE PRODUCTION LAGS IN BELORUSSIA -- Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, No 9, 24 Feb 50

The construction materials industry of Belorussia has been concentrating on the production of bricks and neglecting other branches of this industry, including roofing tiles. Only 75 percent of the year plan for the latter product was completed. The output of roofing tiles was only 70 percent of the prewar production level. Roofing-tile shops in the brick plants of Gomel', Grodno, Polotsk, and Mogilev are idle.

Lime production has increased, but conditions prevailing in lime plants are deplorable. Fifty percent of the lime is still being calcined in floor kilns. Even the Klimovichi Silica Brick Plant has not yet installed a shaft furnace, and its production methods are very outmoded.

In Belorussia, where construction is rapidly expanding, it is essential to use all available deposits of mineral resources. However, until now the Loyev and Gorodnyanskoye deposits of refractory clay and kaolin have remained unused.

LITHUANIAN GLASS, LIME PLANTS CITED -- Sovetskaya Litva, No 59, 10 Mar 50

In the all-Union socialist competition of enterprises of the construction materials industry, the following Lithuanian plants achieved the best results: the Radvilishki Glass Plant fulfilled the first-quarter gross-production plan 120.8 percent, increased labor productivity 23.8 percent above plan, and lowered production costs 13.1 percent; and the "Akmyane" Lime Plant fulfilled the gross-production plan, increased labor productivity 4.5 percent above plan, and lowered production costs 4.6 percent.

LATVIAN SLATE PLANT RECONSTRUCTED -- Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, No 1, 1 Jan 50

The second unit of the Brotseny Slate Plant in Latvian SSR has been completed. With the completion of this unit, the Brotseny Construction Materials Combine, which was destroyed during the war, has been entirely reconstructed.

The Brotseny Slate Plant produces corrugated and flat square sheets of slate. The enterprise is equipped with the latest technological improvements and is to have an annual output of many million sheets of slate.

PLANT MAKES GROUND UNSLAKED LIME -- Sovetskaya Latvija, No 11, 13 Jan 50

The Tsesis Lime Plant in Latvia has begun production of ground unslaked lime, which is to be used widely in construction and in the production of other construction materials. The use of unslaked lime would save up to 25 or 30 percent of raw material, as unslaked lime sets 50 times faster than slaked lime, thus speeding up the production process and improving the quality of construction materials.

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ESTONIAN ENTERPRISES AWARDED PRIZES -- Sovetskaya Estoniya, No 50, 26 Feb 50

In the fourth quarter 1949 socialist competition of industrial enterprises of the Estonian SSR, the following enterprises of the Ministry of Housing and Civilian Construction and the Construction Materials Industry were awarded prizes: the "TEP" plant (director, Abramov) received the Transferable Red Banner and a cash award of 22,500 rubles; a second cash award of 22,500 rubles was given to the Construction and Assembly Administration of "Spetstrest" (chief, Nyakshev). The following enterprises have exceeded their plans: "Yarvakandi Tekhased" Combine, "Eesti Diatomit" Plant, "Punane Kunda" Cement Plant, "Kvarts" Silica Brick Plant, "Lyasnamyae Paemurrud" Plant, "Yarve" Roofing Paper and Concrete Plant, and the construction office of Pyarnu City.

KARELO-FINNISH INDUSTRY LAGGING -- Leninskoye Znanya, No 11, 15 Jan 50

There has been a serious lag in the leading branches of industry in the Karelo-Finnish SSR, including the timber industry, fish industry, and construction materials industry. It is well known that the construction materials industry of the republic does not meet growing requirements and has continuously failed to fulfill production plans. However, responsible officials and heads of construction projects have been covering up the true state of affairs and turning in false reports on the achievements of this industry.

GEORGIAN PLANT ADOPTS CHEAPER MATERIAL -- Zarya Vostoka, No 9, 13 Jan 50

The concrete block plant of "Tbilisstroy" Recently produced the first samples of concrete blocks made of lime-pozzuolana cement, which has been used with good results in place of Portland cement and costs about 50 percent less. Lime-pozzuolana cement consists of 65 percent tuff, 30 percent lime, and up to 5 percent "gazha" (alabaster).

SCORES QUALITY, DELIVERY OF CEMENT -- Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, No 9, 24 Feb 50

The production of asbestos-slate products does not permit the use of cement with any impurities. In this respect, the Georgian Cement Plant, which delivers cement to the Georgian Slate Plant, has not been meeting basic demands and its cement does not conform to government standards. To keep production going, the slate plant has been forced to use whatever material it receives. In January, this plant received cement with a 15-20 percent addition of limestone. As a result, the productivity of millboard machines was reduced more than 50 percent. In addition, 600,000 tiles made of this cement turned out to be defective. In February, the slate plant was supplied with plugging cement and pozzuolana cement which contained 30-35 percent pumice. It is not possible to produce slate out of this type of raw material.

Under various pretenses the cement plant has been holding up delivery of cement to the slate plant. As a result, the slate plant is forced to be idle not only because of the poor quality of cement, but because of the lack of any cement whatsoever. This situation has existed in the slate plant for a long time.

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GEORGIAN BRICK PLANT MECHANIZES PRODUCTION -- Zarya Vostoka, No 46, 2 Mar 50

The Khashuri Brick Plant in Georgia has mechanized its brick production. After installation of a new press unit at the plant, a large number of workers could be used in other work sectors, production costs were lowered 13 percent, the brick quality improved, and the plant was converted to year-round production. The 1949 plan provided for an output of 2 million bricks, and beginning with 1950 the plant is to have a yearly production of at least 3 million bricks.

ARMENIAN MULLITE PLANT UPS PRODUCTION, TOPS PLANS -- Kommunist, No 296, 17 Dec 49

The Yerevan Mullite Plant is steadily increasing production. The quality of mullite [an aluminum silicate refractory] has greatly improved. The output of first-grade mullite has been increased by 10 percent, waste has been reduced 16 percent, and 57,000 kilowatt-hours of electric power have been saved

Kommunist, No 3, 4 Jan 50

The Yerevan Mullite Plant fulfilled the 1949 plan ahead of schedule and produced $1\frac{1}{2}$ million rubles' worth of high-quality products above plan. Production costs were lowered 12.8 percent during an 11-month period, labor productivity increased 24 percent, and the plant saved 300,000 kilowatt-hours of electric power.

Kommunist, No 42, 18 Feb 50

In the All-Union socialist competition of enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR for the fourth quarter 1949, the Yerevan Mullite Plant was awarded the third prize. The plant is continuing to step up production in 1950. The January plan for mullite and glass output was considerably exceeded and the February plan for mullite production was completed on 15 February.

Kommunist, No 62, 13 Mar 50

The Yerevan Mullite Plant fulfilled the first quarter 1950 plan for production of mullite bars 109.3 percent on 11 March, and the gross-production plan 100.6 percent.

KIRGIZ CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY IMPROVING -- Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, No 22, 31 Jan 50

In recent months, the Kirgiz construction materials industry has done much to eliminate its former shortcomings and to improve production. The Novopavlovskiy Brick Plant has put into operation a mechanized furnace which produces 10,000 tons of lime a year. The Kyzyl-Kiya Plant was converted to year-round production beginning with the first quarter 1950. The Przheval'sk Brick Plant has installed a machine-molding shop. The capacity of the firing kiln has increased from 4 to 10 million bricks a year. The Stalinskiy Plant is completing the construction of tunnel driers, which will enable an increase in output up to 9 million bricks.

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Kommunist, No 3, 4 Jan 50

The Yerevan Mullite Plant fulfilled the 1949 plan ahead of schedule and produced 1½ million rubles' worth of high-quality products above plan. Production costs were lowered 12.8 percent during an 11-month period, labor productivity increased 24 percent, and the plant saved 300,000 kilowatt-hours of electric power.

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The problem of raw material for lime production has been solved successfully. Until recently, limestone was shipped to Frunze from Kazakhstan. Now it is obtained from a quarry in Bystrovskiy Rayon. All this made it possible to speed up production. Construction projects no longer face shortages of bricks and lime. During 1949, brick production increased 15.9 percent over 1948, tile production increased 39.7 percent, lime 29.1 percent, and alabaster 307 percent.

Although considerable progress has been made in this industry, there are still shortcomings. Production of roofing tiles is still inadequate and production of good cement remains a problem. Bricks and tiles produced by the Przheval'sk, Kyzyl-Kiya, and Dzhalal-Abad plants are of low quality.

UZBEK SSR HAS CEMENT, SLATE PLANTS -- Krasnaya Zvezda, No 18, 21 Jan 50

There are many enterprises in Uzbek SSR producing construction materials such as cement, slate, brick, asbestos-cement pipes, etc.

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